



# *The Insider*

[www.senate.mi.gov/switalski](http://www.senate.mi.gov/switalski)

## **Inside State Politics with State Senator Mickey Switalski Senate District 10**

**May 28, 2004**

Welcome to the electronic version of *The Insider*. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and for giving me an opportunity to represent you in the Michigan Senate. It is my sincere hope that this bi-weekly e-newsletter will keep you informed of the happenings in Lansing, while keeping true to the traditional style of *The Insider*. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to e-mail me at [senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov) or call me at my Roseville or Lansing office. You can also meet me in person during my constituent hours, coming to a library near you. You can also call my office and make an appointment, or you can just walk in. See page 4 for the schedule. In addition, I will be hosting an environmental task force public forum at Metro Beach on June 3. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to come. Details can be found in this issue of the e-newsletter.

---

### **Observing Memorial Day: Roseville Streets Tell Veteran's Stories**

---

It's been 60 years since D-Day and the liberation of Europe. In honoring those who fought and died for us, it's instructive to reflect on how veterans shaped today's world.

My dad was an MP in WWII, and part of the invasion of Normandy in 1944 as a 23-year old kid. Like most veterans, he rarely talked about his experiences. But despite their reticence, yesterday's veterans have left an enduring mark, sometimes in subtle ways we hardly notice.

The greatest generation's victory over fascism transformed the world order. Their triumph led directly to the end of colonialism, the expansion of human and civil rights, and the establishment of American hegemony. The allied victory created the foundation for a peaceful and united Europe after two cataclysmic world wars only 21 years apart.

We take these gains for granted. We fail to appreciate, or even notice, how this world was even created. Reminders of our soldiers' contributions surround us, although few of us see the evidence in our daily lives. Yet if you only open your eyes and look closely, that half-forgotten world will come alive for you.

My awakening started one Memorial Day not so long ago. I'd just marched in the Roseville Memorial Day Parade as a Councilman. The ceremony culminated at City Hall with the High School band, a 21-gun salute, and the presentation of wreaths at the flagpole. As the crowd dispersed, I took a moment to look at the historical marker commemorating the war dead near the base of the flagpole.

As I read the names, I recognized a few to be street names in the city. Roseville boomed from rural Erin Township to a bustling suburb after the war. The city fathers and developers paid tribute to some of Roseville's slain heroes by naming streets after them. I felt enriched by knowing the background of the

streets I trod so many times in blissful ignorance. I felt a better appreciation for the sacrifice and better grasped the debt and honor we owe to those vets.

The northwest corner of Roseville, East of Hayes and South of 13 Mile, is known as the only part of Roseville that's in the Fraser School District. But it should be known for something else, too. Just west of Dooley Elementary school is J. Carls Street. J. Carls is famous locally as the home of Councilman John Chirkun. But few realize it was named for Jack William Carls, firecontrolman 3<sup>rd</sup> class of the US Navy. Jack survived 10 major naval engagements before losing his life in a typhoon in the south Pacific in December of 1944. He was only 22 and had graduated from Burton High and had worked for Bell Telephone before entering the service.

Just a short distance south from the Macomb Mall lies beautiful McKinnon Street, with its tall trees and huge 300-foot deep lots. Patton School is there, named after former principal Lucille Patton, no relation to US Army General George Patton. However, the Patton connection fits because the street itself is named for Corporal Jack Russell McKinnon, a 20-year old paratrooper who was killed in action in Italy on March 4, 1944. McKinnon was also a graduate of Burton, and made model airplanes as a kid before deciding to jump out of them for Uncle Sam. He had been overseas only 10 days when he was killed.

Jess Buckhannon grew up in the "Poets" district of Roseville on Ivanhoe Street, near Tennyson, Lowell, and Longfellow. An infantryman in the US Army, Jess died in November of 1944 in the South Pacific. His name appears on the tablets of the missing in Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. He was honored with Buckhannon Street, half a mile southeast across Gratiot from his boyhood home.

Emery Street is well known to those who get lost trying to find a shortcut to 12 Mile from Roseville Junior High on Martin Road. But few realize that Wallace Emery was a Marine killed in a foxhole on Guam in the Pacific.

William Koontz likewise is commemorated with one of the longest streets in Roseville, stretching from 10 Mile near Kelly to I-696.

But Roseville's newest such eponymous street and most famous WWII causality is Wetzel Street in front of the City Hall, named for Macomb County's only Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Pfc. Walter C. Wetzel. He was killed in Germany when he threw himself on a hand grenade to save his fellow GIs.

These and many other veterans shaped our world. They created the fabric of our lives, from our freedom and independence down to the street where you live. Sometimes between the barbecues, and the sales, and the ballgames, take a moment to appreciate their sacrifice.

---

## **Clean Environment for Our Children**

---

### ***Switalski hosting environmental forum at Metro Beach***

Memorial Day is here and the unofficial start of summer is upon us. With gas prices being so high, many Michiganders are opting to stay close to home. For those that wish to enjoy their Memorial Day weekend at their local beach, it may be difficult.

At least that is if you want to swim.

The recent heavy rain has caused many sewer drains in Macomb County to overflow not only causing significant flooding that has turned parts of Macomb County into Kevin Costner's *Water World* but also has led to the temporary closure of every beach in the county.

For far too many Macomb County residents, beach closings have become the norm as our lakes and water streams are constantly registering above normal levels of bacteria such as e-coli. For example, Metro Beach was closed for a total of 60 days last year. Combine that with the not-so occasional chemical spill coming from Chemical Valley in Sarnia, are amongst other pollutants that hurt the water we drink and swim in.

Yuck!

There is no better time than the present to address these issues. To address the important issue of water quality, the Senate Democratic Party has created an Environmental Task Force with a theme of "Clean Environment for Our Children".

I will be hosting one of the three public forums of the task force on **June 3 at Metro Beach, located at 31300 Metropolitan Parkway in Harrison Township, from 7-9 p.m.**

I will be discussing what elected officials such as myself are doing at the state level to address the water quality issues in Michigan. In addition, Doug Martz, Chairman of the Macomb County Water Quality Board, Mark Richardson, the Environmental Prosecutor of Macomb County, and former State Senator and current Director of the Office of the Great Lakes, Ken DeBeaussaert will also speak about various environmental issues.

The forum will also feature an opportunity for the public to interact by asking questions and providing testimony on issues that pertain to our environment.

The task force hearings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. I encourage anyone who is interested in protecting our environment and providing clean water for our children to come to the forum and express their opinion.

By getting feedback from interested stakeholders such as the public, government officials such as myself can take further steps to improve water quality and our environment in our great state. Together, we can make a difference and provide clean water and a clean environment for our children.

For more information, please contact my office at 1-866-303-0110.

---

### **Relay for Life Update**

---

## ***SWITALSKI-NOTTE TEAM STRIDE AGAINST CANCER***

The Switalski-Notte Striders teamed up to raise over \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society at the annual Relay for Life walk-a-thon fundraiser in Clinton Township last weekend.

This year's event was huge success. The participation was phenomenal. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who participated, especially to those individuals that walked and donated money for this worthy cause. Your contributions are truly a testament to the spirit and dedication that is needed in the fight against cancer.

The participants fought humid weather and an early Sunday morning thunderstorm but the weather was unable to dampen the spirit and heart.

Our team unofficially raised more than \$10,900 for the American Cancer Society, far surpassing the total of \$5,000 the team raised last year. The event netted over \$108,000 for cancer research and awareness. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States of America.

The Switalski-Notte striders included Sterling Heights Mayor Richard Notte and myself, as well as Sterling Heights' council members, Barbara Ziarko, Joseph Romano, Richard Bracci and Maria Schmidt.

It is still not too late to donate to the American Cancer Society. If you would like to donate, you can contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or by logging on to their website, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

---

### **Mickey's TV Insider Show**

---

Check out my TV Insider Show coming to a television station near you. Watch me interview local guests about politics, life, issues and concerns to our district.

#### **Sterling Heights**

Every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m.  
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

#### **Utica**

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.  
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

#### **Clinton Township**

Last week of every month- Sat thru Thurs  
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

#### **Roseville**

Every other Tuesday at 6:05 p.m.  
(Comcast Channel 18)

\*Please note that Sterling Heights/Utica/Clinton Township will show the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 5 and Wide Open West Channel 10. Clinton Township will air the TV Insider Show at various times during the last week of every month. Roseville can see the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 18.

---

### **Coffee Hours**

---

\*Please note that since the District Office is in Roseville, I do not have coffee hours in Roseville. I encourage you to visit the Roseville office. We even have a coffee pot.

#### **Clinton Township**

**June 28**  
**7-9 P.M.**

Location: Clinton Township Public Library  
(40900 Romeo Plank Road, near Canal )

#### **Sterling Heights/Utica**

**June 7**  
**7-9 P.M.**

Location: Sterling Heights Library  
(Utica and Dodge Park roads)

---

## Contact My Office

---

**Website:** <http://www.senate.mi.gov/switalski>

**Email:** [senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov)

### Lansing Office

Senator Mickey Switalski  
Senate District 10  
410 Farnum  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

(866)303-0110 toll free  
(517)373-7315  
Fax-(517)373-3126

### District Office

28311 Utica Road  
Roseville, MI 48066

Monday through Friday  
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

(586)774-2430  
Fax-(586)774-0012